

Public Information Statement

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA
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...SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA WEATHER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2011...

RAINFALL IS USUALLY ON A SHARP INCREASE ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA IN A TYPICAL DECEMBER. HOWEVER...RAINFALL IN DECEMBER 2011 WAS WELL BELOW NORMAL ACROSS THE REGION. MOST STATIONS RECEIVED JUST 10 TO 30 PERCENT OF NORMAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH...EXCEPT PERCENTAGES OF NORMAL WERE SOMEWHAT HIGHER ACROSS LOS ANGELES COUNTY COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS. ACROSS MUCH OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AND WESTERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY...RAINFALL WAS GENERALLY LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF NORMAL.

TEMPERATURES IN DECEMBER 2011 WERE GENERALLY 1 TO 4 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL...THANKS MAINLY TO THE OVERNIGHT LOWS. NEARLY CONTINUOUS OFFSHORE FLOW...LOTS OF CLEAR DAYS AND VERY DRY CONDITIONS BROUGHT MANY CHILLY NIGHTS TO MUCH OF THE REGION. BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES OCCURRED ON ALMOST EVERY NIGHT IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY...WITH TEMPERATURES ON MANY NIGHTS DOWN INTO THE TEENS. LOWS DROPPED BELOW FREEZING ON MOST NIGHTS IN THE INTERIOR VALLEYS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES...AND IN THE OJAI VALLEY. EVEN ON THE CENTRAL COAST...LOWS DROPPED BELOW FREEZING ON MORE THAN 10 NIGHTS AT SANTA MARIA AIRPORT AND SAN LUIS OBISPO AIRPORT. ON A FEW NIGHTS...LOWS DROPPED A BIT BELOW FREEZING ON THE SOUTH COAST OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY...AND IN THE COLDER VALLEY LOCATIONS OF VENTURA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES. SCATTERED LIGHT FROSTS AFFECTED JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE ELSE ON A FEW NIGHTS...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF IMMEDIATE COASTAL AREAS OF VENTURA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES.

THE AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES FOR DECEMBER 2011 WAS 43.7 DEGREES. THIS IS THE 7TH COLDEST AVERAGE MINIMUM FOR DECEMBER SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1877...AND THE LOWEST SUCH AVERAGE SINCE DECEMBER 1978...WHEN THE AVERAGE WAS 42.4 DEGREES. THE DECEMBER WITH THE LOWEST AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES WAS DECEMBER 1878...WITH AN AVERAGE LOW OF 41.9 DEGREES.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR DECEMBER 2011...THE NORMAL AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR THE 1981-2010 PERIOD...THE LOWEST AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF ANY DECEMBER...AND WHERE DECEMBER 2011 RANKED AT A FEW LOCATIONS AROUND SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA.

LOCATION	AVG MIN DEC 2011	NORMAL AVG MIN FOR DEC	LOWEST AVG MIN OF ANY DEC/YR	2011 RANK

DOWNTOWN L.A.	43.7	47.5	41.9/1878	7TH COLDEST
LONG BEACH ARPT	42.1	45.8	39.6/1960	3RD COLDEST
SANTA BARBARA ARPT	36.3	40.2	32.9/1990	4TH COLDEST
LANCASTER ARPT	22.5	29.7	20.8/1990	2ND COLDEST

CAMARILLO ARPT	39.5	42.1	38.4/1968	2ND COLDEST
PASO ROBLES ARPT	27.7	33.7	23.4/1990	6TH COLDEST
SANTA MARIA ARPT	34.0	39.1	30.0/1918	7TH COLDEST

A VIGOROUS UPPER LEVEL LOW DROPPED THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND INTO NEVADA ON THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER...REACHING A POSITION NEAR THE CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA BORDER BY EVENING. A VERY STRONG AND DRY COLD FRONT SWEEPED THROUGH THE REGION DURING THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 30TH...RESULTING IN TEMPERATURES DROPS OF MORE THAN 30 DEGREES IN THE MOUNTAINS...AND CAUSING WIDESPREAD STRONG AND GUSTY NORTH WINDS TO DEVELOP ACROSS MAINLY LOS ANGELES AND EASTERN VENTURA COUNTIES. NORTHERLY CROSS WINDS REACHED 47 MPH AT LOS ANGELES AIRPORT...CAUSING A GROUND-STOP AT THE AIRPORT...AND NUMEROUS ABORTED LANDINGS. AT AROUND 7 PM...THERE WAS A POWER OUTAGE AT THE AIRPORT...AND DEBRIS WAS BLOWING ACROSS RUNWAYS. AS A RESULT OF ALL THIS...23 FLIGHTS HAD TO BE DIVERTED TO ONTARIO AIRPORT.

STRONG SUBSIDENCE AND COLD AIR ADVECTION BEHIND THE FRONT...AND POWERFUL NORTHERLY WINDS THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE CAUSED WIDESPREAD DAMAGING WINDS ACROSS MUCH OF LOS ANGELES AND EASTERN VENTURA COUNTIES FROM LATE WEDNESDAY EVENING THE 30TH THROUGH THE MORNING HOURS ON THE 1ST. MANY WIND GUSTS OF 60 TO 70 MPH WERE REPORTED IN THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS AND VALLEY...THE SAN FERNANDO AND SANTA CLARITA VALLEYS...AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. THE PEAK OFFICIAL WIND GUST RECORDED AT WHITAKER PEAK AT 4100 FEET WAS 97 MPH...AND THERE WAS AN UNOFFICIAL GUST OF 101 MPH AT THE MOUNT WASHINGTON RAWS SENSOR IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AT 939 FEET.

HUNDRED OF TREES WERE UPROOTED OR HEAVILY DAMAGED ACROSS THE REGION...CAUSING MANY ROAD CLOSURES. THE MOST HARD HIT AREAS WERE THE FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES FROM LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE TO PASADENA TO TEMPLE CITY TO MONROVIA. THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TREE DAMAGE CAUSED WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES...ALONG WITH SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO HOMES...CARS AND BUSINESSES. OVER 350000 PEOPLE LOST POWER...AND POWER OUTAGES FOR MANY IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY LASTED FOR MORE THAN 2 DAYS. IN ABOUT 10000 CASES...POWER OUTAGES LASTED MORE THAN A WEEK. MANY SCHOOLS IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WERE CLOSED FOR TWO DAYS OR MORE. AT LEAST 42 BUILDINGS WERE RED-TAGGED AS UNSAFE IN PASADENA DUE TO STORM DAMAGE. AT LEAST 200 PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED AS A PRECAUTION FOR CONTINUING WINDS IN THE AREA. DAMAGE ESTIMATES FROM THIS HIGH WIND EVENT WERE PLACED AT AROUND 40 MILLION DOLLARS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

SOME PEAK WIND GUSTS FROM THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 30TH THROUGH THE AFTERNOON OF THE 2ND INCLUDE 101 MPH AT MOUNT WASHINGTON...97 MPH AT WHITAKER PEAK...76 MPH AT ACTON...72 MPH AT CHILAO AND SAN RAFAEL HILLS...70 MPH AT CAMP NINE...69 MPH AT WARM SPRINGS AND BRANCH MOUNTAIN...68 MPH AT SANTA FE DAM...67 MPH AT SAUGUS...62 MPH AT LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE AND MILL CREEK...61 MPH AT MONTECITO...60 MPH IN GLENDALE...59 MPH AT MALIBU HILLS AND ROSE VALLEY...58 MPH AT LAKE CASITAS...57 MPH AT CLEAR CREEK...56 MPH AT NEWHALL PASS...55 MPH AT BURBANK AIRPORT...BEVERLY HILLS...AND LEO CARRILLO BEACH...53 MPH AT TONNER CANYON...52 MPH AT TANBARK AND AT LAKE PALMDALE...51 MPH AT MALIBU CANYON...47 MPH AT LOS ANGELES AIRPORT...45 MPH AT CHEESEBORO...38 MPH AT DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES...AND 37 MPH AT SANTA MONICA AIRPORT. THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THESE PEAK WIND GUSTS OCCURRED BETWEEN 9 PM ON NOVEMBER 30TH AND NOON ON DECEMBER 1ST.

HIGH WIND WARNINGS WERE IN EFFECT ACROSS MUCH OF LOS ANGELES AND

EASTERN VENTURA COUNTIES FROM WEDNESDAY EVENING THROUGH THURSDAY AFTERNOON...AND LINGERED THROUGH FRIDAY AFTERNOON THE 2ND IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. WITH THE COMBINATION OF GUSTY WINDS AND VERY DRY CONDITIONS...RED FLAG WARNING WERE ALSO IN EFFECT FOR MOST OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES FROM THE 30TH THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 2ND. WINDS BEGAN TO DROP OFF IN MOST AREAS ON THE 2ND.

WITH THE COLD AND DRY AIR MASS IN PLACE...WIND SHELTERED LOCATIONS GOT VERY CHILLY AT NIGHT...WITH MANY AREAS OF FROST OR SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURES AWAY FROM THE COAST. LOW TEMPERATURES REACHED 22 DEGREES AT LA PANZA AND 24 DEGREES AT LAS TABLAS...BOTH IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY. ON THE 3RD...A RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES OF 37 DEGREES WAS SET AT CAMARILLO AIRPORT...AND A RECORD OF 32 DEGREES WAS SET AT SAN LUIS OBISPO CAL POLY.

ANOTHER UPPER LOW DEVELOPING ACROSS THE GREAT BASIN DROPPED SOUTHWARD THROUGH THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY ON THE 3RD...BRINGING ANOTHER ROUND OF GUSTY OFFSHORE WINDS AND HEIGHTENED FIRE DANGER. RED FLAG WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FOR THE 3RD INTO THE LATE MORNING OF THE 4TH ACROSS MOST OF VENTURA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES...ALONG WITH WIND ADVISORIES...EXCEPT HIGH WIND WARNINGS IN THE MOUNTAINS.

PEAK WIND GUSTS ON THE 3RD INCLUDED 64 MPH AT CHILAO...61 MPH AT LAGUNA PEAK...57 MPH AT CAMP NINE...52 MPH AT TANBARK...50 MPH AT CLEAR CREEK...48 MPH AT SAUGUS...47 MPH AT WILEY RIDGE...44 MPH AT MALIBU HILLS AND NEWHALL PASS...42 MPH AT CHEESEBORO...AND 40 MPH AT LEO CARRILLO BEACH.

WHERE THE WINDS DROPPED OFF...IT WAS VERY CHILLY ONCE AGAIN ON THE MORNING OF THE 4TH. A RECORD LOW TEMPERATURE OF 35 DEGREES WAS SET AT CAMARILLO AIRPORT...BREAKING THE OLD RECORD OF 36 SET IN 1948...AND THE LOW OF 32 DEGREES AT SAN LUIS OBISPO CAL POLY BROKE ITS RECORD OF 33 DEGREES SET IN 1948. THE LOW OF 38 DEGREES AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT TIED THE DAILY RECORD SET IN 1973...AND THE LOW OF 29 DEGREES AT SANTA MARIA AIRPORT TIED ITS RECORD SET IN 2004.

ANOTHER VIGOROUS UPPER LEVEL SYSTEM IN MONTANA DURING THE EVENING OF THE 3RD...DROPPED SOUTH SOUTHWESTWARD THROUGH THE GREAT BASIN ON THE 4TH. COLD AIR ALOFT AND SUBSIDENCE SPREAD ACROSS THE REGION ON THE LATE ON THE 4TH INTO THE 5TH...HELPING TO FORCE STRONG WINDS ALOFT TOWARD THE SURFACE. A STRONG OFFSHORE PRESSURE GRADIENT ALSO DEVELOPED. THIS BROUGHT ANOTHER ROUND OF STRONG TO DAMAGING WINDS TO THE REGION FROM THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 5TH THROUGH THE AFTERNOON OF 6TH...WITH WINDS WEAKENING SOME LATE ON THE 5TH INTO THE 6TH. VERY WINDY AND DRY CONDITIONS ALSO PROMPTED THE ISSUANCE OF RED FLAG WARNINGS FOR THE 5TH AND 6TH.

SOME PEAK WIND GUSTS ON THE 5TH AND EARLY ON THE 6TH INCLUDED 79 MPH AT LAGUNA PEAK...64 MPH AT MALIBU HILLS...62 MPH AT CHILAO...60 MPH AT WARM SPRINGS...58 MPH AT CAMP NINE AND MILL CREEK...54 MPH AT WILEY RIDGE...52 MPH AT CHEESEBORO...46 MPH AT LEO CARRILLO BEACH...MALIBU CANYONS AND CAMARILLO AIRPORT...45 MPH AT NEWHALL PASS...44 MPH AT OXNARD AIRPORT...AND 40 MPH AT POINT MUGU.

ON THE 5TH...THE LOW TEMPERATURE OF 24 DEGREES AT PASO ROBLES AIRPORT TIED A DAILY RECORD SET IN 2006.

ON THE 6TH...A RECORD LOW TEMPERATURE OF 16 DEGREES WAS SET AT

LANCASTER...BREAKING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 17 DEGREES SET IN 2006. LOW TEMPERATURES OF 42 DEGREES AT UCLA AND 23 DEGREES AT PASO ROBLES AIRPORT TIED DAILY RECORDS...PREVIOUSLY SET IN 1988 AND 2006 RESPECTIVELY. THE LOW TEMPERATURE OF 37 DEGREES AT DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES WAS THE COLDEST OF THE MONTH AND OF 2011...AND WAS JUST 1 DEGREE SHY OF TYING THE RECORD FOR THE DATE...SET ALL THE WAY BACK IN 1897.

FROM THE 7TH THROUGH THE 10TH...A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE BROUGHT CLEAR SKIES TO THE REGION...AND TEMPERATURES WARMED TO NEAR NORMAL...AT LEAST DAYTIME TEMPERATURES. IT WAS STILL VERY CHILLY EACH NIGHT IN MANY AREAS.

ON THE 7TH...THE LOW TEMPERATURE OF 13 DEGREES AT LANCASTER AIRPORT SET A NEW RECORD LOW...BREAKING THE OLD RECORD OF 15 DEGREES SET IN 1978.

ON THE 10TH...AN UPPER TROUGH MOVING INTO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST BROUGHT A RETURN TO ONSHORE FLOW...WHICH BROUGHT SOME COOLING TO THE DAYTIME HIGH TEMPERATURES IN MOST AREAS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MONTH...NIGHT THROUGH MORNING LOW CLOUDS AND FOG AFFECTED MOST COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS LATE ON THE 10TH INTO THE 11TH. SIGNIFICANT COOLING AFFECTED THE ENTIRE REGION ON THE 11TH.

THE TROUGH IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHARPENED UP ON THE 11TH...AND AN UPPER LOW DEVELOPED NEAR THE BASE OF THE TROUGH OFF THE COAST OF POINT CONCEPTION ON THE 12TH. THIS UPPER LOW THEN TRACKED SOUTHEASTWARD ACROSS THE OUTER COASTAL WATERS...REACHING SAN DIEGO BY MIDNIGHT.

SHOWERS DEVELOPED ON THE CENTRAL COAST DURING THE EVENING HOURS OF THE 11TH...THEN RAIN OVERSPREAD THE REST OF THE REGION DURING THE NIGHT. RAIN WAS HEAVIEST ACROSS LOS ANGELES AND EASTERN VENTURA COUNTIES AS STORM DYNAMICS AND INSTABILITY WERE MOST FAVORABLE IN THOSE AREAS. THERE WERE A FEW THUNDERSTORMS EMBEDDED IN THE RAIN...ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE COASTAL WATERS. A WATERSPOUT WAS SPOTTED JUST SOUTH OF HUNTINGTON BEACH AT JUST BEFORE 3 PM ON THE 12TH.

MANY RECORD DAILY LOW MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE SET OF DECEMBER 12TH...INCLUDING 52 DEGREES AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT...50 DEGREES AT BURBANK AIRPORT...48 DEGREES AT WOODLAND HILLS...41 DEGREES AT LANCASTER AIRPORT AND 54 DEGREES AT CAMARILLO AIRPORT.

RAIN TURNED TO SHOWERS DURING THE EVENING OF THE 12TH...THEN SCATTERED SHOWERS CONTINUED INTO THE MORNING HOURS OF THE 13TH. ISOLATED STRONG THUNDERSTORMS CONTINUED TO AFFECT THE INNER COASTAL WATERS FROM ABOUT MALIBU SOUTHWARD TO CATALINA ISLAND THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. SHOWERS ENDED BY NOON ON THE 13TH.

SOME RAINFALL TOTALS FOR THE STORM INCLUDED 1.52 INCHES AT MALIBU HILLS...1.46 INCHES AT NORTHRIDGE...1.42 INCHES AT CARBON CANYON... 1.36 INCHES AT CORRAL CANYON...1.33 INCHES AT MOUNT WILSON AND ROLLING HILLS...1.30 INCHES AT MALIBU CANYON...1.26 INCHES AT MONTE NIDO...1.24 INCHES IN BEVERLY HILLS...1.22 INCHES AT BIG ROCK MESA AND SEPULVEDA CANYON...1.19 INCHES IN PASADENA...1.18 INCHES AT EAGLE ROCK RESERVOIR...1.14 INCHES AT NEWHALL PASS AND IN MONTEBELLO...1.12 INCHES AT GOLETA...1.11 INCHES AT CHATSWORTH... 1.10 INCHES AT WOODLAND HILLS AND AT ROCKY PEAK...1.01 INCHES AT PASADENA...0.98 INCHES IN NEWHALL...0.96 INCHES AT DOWNTOWN LOS

ANGELES...0.92 INCHES AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT AND SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT...0.84 INCHES IN SOUTH GATE...0.80 INCHES AT SAN MARCOS PASS...0.79 INCHES IN AGOURA HILLS AND CANOGA PARK...0.78 INCHES IN HAWTHORNE AND AT UCLA...0.74 INCHES AT SANTA MONICA AIRPORT AND BURBANK AIRPORT...0.65 INCHES AT LOS ANGELES AIRPORT...0.63 INCHES AT NORDHOFF RODGE...0.62 INCHES AT SAN LUIS HARBOR...0.60 INCHES IN THOUSAND OAKS...0.56 INCHES IN CLAREMONT AND IN POPPY PARK...0.48 INCHES IN VANDENBERG AND IN SIMI VALLEY...0.46 INCHES AT SANDBERG...0.38 INCHES AT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN OXNARD...0.34 INCHES AT PALMDALE AIRPORT...0.32 INCHES AT LANCASTER AIRPORT...0.28 INCHES IN OJAI...0.22 INCHES IN VENTURA...0.17 INCHES AT SAN LUIS OBISPO AIRPORT...0.14 INCHES AT SANTA MARIA AIRPORT...0.13 INCHES IN NEW CUYAMA...AND 0.07 INCHES AT PASO ROBLES AIRPORT.

IT WAS A FAIRLY COLD STORM SYSTEM AS WELL. SNOW LEVELS DROPPED TO BETWEEN 3000 AND 4000 FEET DURING THE AFTERNOON OF THE 12TH...AND LOCALLY DOWN TO 2500 FEET AT NIGHT. SNOW TOTALS GENERALLY AVERAGED 5 TO 10 INCHES ABOVE 5000 FEET...WITH SMALL ACCUMULATIONS LOCALLY DOWN TO 3000 FEET. SOME SNOWFALL TOTALS INCLUDED 7 INCHES AT MOUNT WILSON AT 5600 FEET...6 INCHES AT MOUNT BALDY NOTCH AT 7700 FEET AND AT WRIGHTWOOD...AND 1 INCH AT VALYERMO HILLS AT 4000 FEET AND IN FRAZIER PARK AT 5000 FEET.

A WEAK RIDGE MOVED INTO THE REGION ON THE 14TH...BRINGING DRY AND SEASONABLY COOL WEATHER.

A SHARP UPPER LEVEL TROUGH MOVED INTO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA THAT NIGHT...THEN EVOLVED INTO AN UPPER LOW AS IT DOVE SOUTHWARD THROUGH CALIFORNIA ON THE 15TH. A SURFACE COLD FRONT INTENSIFIED IN THE AFTERNOON. BETWEEN 3 AND 4 PM...SEVERAL BANDS OF SHOWERS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPED ACROSS LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES...WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS ELSEWHERE. SOME OF THESE THUNDERSTORMS BROUGHT VERY HEAVY DOWNPOURS AND SMALL HAIL. RAINFALL OF 0.40 INCHES IN 30 MINUTES WAS MEASURED IN A GAUGE NEAR LONG BEACH.

SOME RAINFALL TOTALS ON THE 15TH INCLUDED 0.34 INCHES AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT...0.25 INCHES IN AGOURA HILLS...0.18 INCHES AT WHITTIER...0.15 INCHES IN PASADENA...0.12 INCHES AT ROCKY PEAK...0.08 INCHES AT WOODLAND HILLS...EATON DAM AND LA VERNA...AND 0.07 INCHES AT NEW CUYAMA...LAKE PIRU AND AT THE HOLLYWOOD RESERVOIR.

THE FRONTAL SYSTEM MOVED EAST OF THE REGION IN THE EVENING...AND THE UPPER LOW DRIFTED INTO EXTREME NORTHERN BAJA. THIS CAUSED STRONG TO DAMAGING NORTH TO NORTHEAST TO DEVELOP ACROSS SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA ON THE 16TH...WITH STRONG WINDS CONTINUING INTO THE 17TH.

SOME PEAK WIND GUSTS INCLUDED 78 MPH AT CAMP NINE...72 MPH AT WILEY RIDGE...68 MPH AT CHILAO...66 MPH AT WARM SPRINGS...63 MPH AT NEWHALL PASS...60 MPH AT LAGUNA PEAK...59 MPH AT SAUGUS...57 MPH AT WHITAKER PEAK...55 MPH AT CHEESEBORO...54 MPH AT MALIBU HILLS AND CLEAR CREEK...48 MPH AT TONNER CANYON...46 MPH AT LEO CARRILLO BEACH AND 45 MPH AT BURBANK AIRPORT.

DURING THE AFTERNOON OF THE 17TH...SOME MOISTURE WRAPPED INTO THE REGION FROM THE EAST AND NORTHEAST BRINGING SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO PARTS OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES...SOME OF WHICH PRODUCED HEAVY DOWNPOURS...SMALL HAIL AND WIND GUSTS OVER 40

MPH. SINCE THE ACTIVITY WAS RATHER BRIEF...WHERE MEASURABLE RAIN DID OCCUR...TOTALS WERE MOSTLY ONE TENTH OF AN INCH OR LESS. SHOWERS LINGERED ACROSS THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 18TH...AND LOCAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF 2 TO 4 INCHES OCCURRED ABOVE THE 4500 FOOT LEVEL.

ONCE THAT UPPER LOW FINALLY MOVED EASTWARD AWAY FROM THE REGION ON THE 18TH...ANOTHER WEAK UPPER LOW PUSHED SOUTHWARD INTO THE AREA ON THE 19TH. THIS SYSTEM ONLY BROUGHT A FEW SPRINKLES TO SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA FROM THE AFTERNOON OF THE 19TH THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 20TH. HOWEVER...IT MADE FOR A VERY COOL DAY ON THE 19TH...WITH HIGH TEMPERATURES ABOUT 10 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL IN MOST AREAS.

WEAK UPPER RIDGING AND WEAK OFFSHORE FLOW BROUGHT SOME WARMING TO ON THE 20TH...ALTHOUGH TEMPERATURES STILL WERE A FEW DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. GENERALLY COOL AND DRY WEATHER CONTINUED THROUGH THE 22ND.

ON THE 22ND...A STRONG SURFACE HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM MOVED INTO NEVADA BEHIND A POWERFUL UPPER LOW DROPPING INTO ARIZONA. THIS BROUGHT YET ANOTHER ROUND OF STRONG TO DAMAGING WINDS TO MUCH OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES ON THE 22ND AND 23RD.

PEAK WIND GUSTS INCLUDED 98 MPH AT LAGUNA PEAK...72 MPH AT WARM SPRINGS...71 MPH AT CHILAO...65 MPH AT WILEY RIDGE...64 MPH AT MALIBU HILLS AND CAMP NINE...63 MPH AT MILL CREEK...57 MPH AT CHEESEBORO AND NEWHALL PASS...50 MPH AT LEO CARRILLO BEACH...48 MPH AT WHITAKER PEAK...48 MPH IN SIMI VALLEY...47 MPH AT POINT MUGU AND SAUGUS...46 MPH AT SANDBERG...44 MPH AT CAMARILLO AIRPORT...

IN WIND SHELTERED LOCATIONS...IT WAS VERY CHILLY ON THE MORNINGS OF THE 23RD THROUGH THE 25TH...WITH LOW TEMPERATURES DROPPING TO OR BELOW FREEZING IN MANY LOCATIONS ACROSS SANTA BARBARA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES...AND IN SOME WIND SHELTERED VALLEYS OF VENTURA COUNTY. ON THE 23RD...LOW TEMPERATURES REACHED 29 DEGREES AT SANTA MARIA AIRPORT...EQUALING ITS LOW FOR THE MONTH. THE LOW OF 29 DEGREES AT SAN LUIS OBISPO AIRPORT WAS ALSO ITS COLDEST READING OF THE MONTH...AS WAS THE LOW OF 24 DEGREES IN OJAI. LOWS OF 20 DEGREES AT PASO ROBLES AIRPORT ON THE 23RD AND 25TH WERE THE COLDEST TEMPERATURES OF THE MONTH AT THAT LOCATION.

WHILE THE NIGHTS REMAINED CHILLY...DAYTIME TEMPERATURES BEGAN TO WARM BEGINNING ON THE 23RD...WITH HIGHS IN THE 70S IN MANY COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS FROM THE 24TH THROUGH THE 26TH. THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 62 DEGREES AT SANDBERG ON THE 26TH BROKE THE DAILY RECORD OF 60 DEGREES SET IN 2006.

A WEAK TROUGH DROPPED THROUGH THE GREAT BASIN ON THE 27TH...BRINGING A BIT OF COOLING...MAINLY TO COASTAL AREAS. ON THE 28TH...A STRONG RIDGE BUILT INTO THE REGION AND WEAK OFFSHORE FLOW DEVELOPED. THIS BROUGHT SEVERAL DEGREES OF WARMING TO MOST AREAS...AND TEMPERATURES REACHED OR EXCEEDED 80 DEGREES AT A FEW LOCATIONS IN THE VALLEYS. HIGH TEMPERATURES OF 76 DEGREES IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES AND AT LONG BEACH AIRPORT ON THE 28TH WERE THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH AT EACH LOCATION...AS WERE HIGHS OF 77 DEGREES AT UCLA...73 DEGREES AS LOS ANGELES AIRPORT AND 71 DEGREES AT SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT. AT SANDBERG...THE LOW TEMPERATURE OF 46 DEGREES ON THE 28TH TIED FOR THE HIGHEST MINIMUM TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED ON THAT DATE...SET IN 1998.

THE UPPER RIDGE WEAKENED A BIT ON THE 29TH AND 30TH...BUT STILL BROUGHT ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES TO THE REGION...EXCEPT A MARINE LAYER CAUSED TEMPERATURES TO DROP TO BELOW NORMAL LEVELS ON COASTAL AREAS ON THE 30TH. THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 66 DEGREES AT SANDBERG ON THE 29TH BROKE ITS RECORD FOR THE DATE...WHICH WAS 62 DEGREES SET IN 2000. ON THE 30TH...THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 77 DEGREES AT PALMDALE AIRPORT BROKE ITS PREVIOUS DAILY RECORD OF 74 DEGREES SET IN 1950...WHILE THE HIGH OF 77 DEGREES AT LANCASTER AIRPORT BROKE ITS DAILY RECORD OF 70 DEGREES SET IN 1980.

THE UPPER RIDGE ALONG THE WEST COAST STRENGTHENED ON THE 31ST...AND SURFACE PRESSURE GRADIENTS TURNED WEAKLY OFFSHORE. THIS BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT WARMING TO THE VALLEYS AND INTERIOR SECTIONS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN...AND TO THE ENTIRE CENTRAL COAST. HIGHS TEMPERATURES REACHED OR EXCEEDED 80 DEGREES IN SOME VALLEY LOCATIONS AND ACROSS PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL COAST. THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 82 DEGREES AT SANTA MARIA AIRPORT SET AT RECORD FOR THE DATE...BREAKING THE OLD RECORD OF 81 DEGREES SET IN 1980. IT WAS ALSO THE HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH AT THAT LOCATION. THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 82 DEGREES AT WOODLAND HILLS ON THE 31ST WAS ITS HIGHEST MONTHLY TEMPERATURE AS WELL.

.....CLIMATE DATA FOR DECEMBER 2011.....

	AVG HIGH	AVG LOW	AVG MONTH	NORM MONTH	MONTH XTRMS	TOTAL PRECIP	NORM PRECIP	PRECIP % NORM
L.A. DOWNTOWN	65.7	43.7	54.7	57.6	76/37	1.01	2.33	43%
L.A. ARPT	64.2	45.8	55.0	56.6	73/40	0.67	2.05	33%
LONG BEACH ARPT	66.3	42.1	54.2	56.3	76/36	1.28	1.95	66%
UCLA	67.4	48.5	58.0	58.7	77/42	0.79	2.75	29%
BURBANK ARPT	65.5	41.0	53.2	54.1	80/34	0.77	2.40	32%
WOODLAND HILLS	67.1	38.2	52.7	54.1	82/32	1.20	2.00	60%
LANCASTER ARPT	58.4	22.5	40.5	43.8	76/13	0.36	1.15	31%
SANDBERG	49.9	35.9	42.9	42.3	66/27	0.47	2.25	21%
CAMARILLO ARPT	66.1	39.5	52.8	53.8	77/33	0.25	2.06	12%
SANTA BARBARA ARPT	63.6	36.3	50.0	51.9	71/31	1.09	2.94	37%
SANTA MARIA ARPT	64.6	35.4	50.0	51.2	82/29	0.16	2.12	8%
PASO ROBLES ARPT	62.2	27.7	45.0	46.4	70/20	0.07	2.01	3%

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BRUNO